

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

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DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 SAM-01 OMB-01 /056 W

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FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9241

INFO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAIGON PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 2321

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS CB

SUBJECT: THIRTY-SEVENTH DAY OF KC DRY SEASON OFFENSIVE

REF: PHNOM PENH 2262

1. SUMMARY. ACTION AROUND PHNOM PENH WAS LIGHT. THE KC KILLED EIGHT CHILDREN WHEN A 107MM HIT A DOWNTOWN PHNOM PENH SCHOOL, AND CAUSED CASUALTIES AND DAMAGE WITH TWO OTHER ATTACKS BY FIRE. FANK FORCES FROM KOMPONG SPEU RAIDED NORTH OF ROUTE 4 KILLING 37 IN A MOVE WHICH MAY UPSET KC TIMING FOR OPERATIONS NORTHWEST OF PHNOM PENH. THE BATTALION-SIZED POSITION AT PREK YUON ON THE MEKONG SOUTHEAST OF PHNOM PENH FELL WITH HEAVY CASUALTIES. END SUMMARY.

2. THE KC REAPED A GRIM HARVEST FROM A SMALL NUMBER OF ATTACKS BY FIRE. A SINGLE 107MM ROCKET HIT A SCHOOL NEAR PHNOM PENH'S RAILWAY STATION. IT KILLED AT LEAST EIGHT CHILDREN AND A TEACHER AND AN ESTIMATED 50 WERE INJURED. FOUR DIED AND ABOUT 25 WERE INJURED WHEN A ROCKET IMPACTED NEAR THE CENTRAL MARKET. TWO OTHER ROCKETS LANDED WITHOUT EFFECT AT POCHENTONG. NO
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REPORTS HAVE COME IN ON DAMAGE FROM A ROCKET WHICH HIT

AT THE FORMER ESSO FACILITY, NORTH ON ROUTE 5. AT PREK PHNEOU, STILL FURTHER NORTH ON ROUTE 5, AN 18-ROUND BARRAGE OF 75MM RECOILLESS RIFLE FIRE DESTROYED 5,000 GALLONS OF GASOLINE AT THE FANK POL DUMP. THE KC SCORED A FINAL SUCCESS AT DEI DOS ON THE MEKONG WHERE A NAVAL LANDING CRAFT WITH 10 TONS OF MUNITIONS WAS SUNK.

3. TWO BATTALIONS OF FANK'S 27TH BRIGADE SUPPORTED BY AN ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIER SQUADRON RAIDED 6-8 KM NORTH OF ROUTE 4 BETWEEN KOMPONG SPEU AND ANG SNUOL FEB. 5. THE RAIDERS KILLED 37 KC AND TOOK 3 PRISONERS, PULLING OUT WHEN THE KC STARTED TO MASS AGAINST THEM. COMMENT: THE RAID MAY HAVE GIVEN KCCOMMANDERS PAUSE AND UPSET THEIR TIMING FOR OPERATIONS AGAINST PHNOM PENH'S NORTHWEST SECTOR.

4. THE NAVY EVACUATED AN ESTIMATED 75 SURVIVORS OF A BATTALION-SIZED POSITION AT PREK YUON ON ROUTE 1 ALONG THE MEKONG JUST BEFORE THE POSITION FELL THIS MORNING. CASUALTIES ARE PRESUMED HEAVY, BUT NO MAJOR ARTILLERY PIECES WERE IN THE POSITION.

5. TWO FORTIFIED WATS FELL TO FANK ATTACKERS ON THE MEKONG'S EAST BANK ACROSS FROM THE CAPITAL ON 4-5 FEBRUARY. ACTION ELSEWHERE ON PHNOM PENH'S PERIMETER WAS LIGHT, BUT THE THIRD DIVISION REPORTS AN INCREASE IN ENEMY PROBES AND HARASSING FIRE. THE MORE PUGNACIOUS ENEMY ACTIVITY MAY BE PRELIMINARY TO HEAVIER ATTACKS.

6. AS A FOOTNOTE TO YESTERDAY' DISASTROUS MEKONG CONVOY ATTEMPT, ANALYSIS SHOWS THAT THE NAVY HAD APPARENTLY SUCCESSFULLY SWEEPED A CHANNEL CLEAR OF MINES; THE SUNKEN TUGS HAD STRAYED OR WERE SCARED OUT OF THAT CHANNEL TO WHERE MINES HOLED THEM. TWO DIED AND 29 WERE INJURED IN THE UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORT.
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